

## Message Text

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21

ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 PM-03 OES-03 COME-00

DODE-00 NSF-01 /027 W

----- 023959

R 130804Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSULATE SURABAYA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0530

AMCONSUL CEBU

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, ID, RP

SUBJECT: VISIT OF R/V THOMAS WASHINGTON TO SURABAYA,  
FEBRUARY 8-12, 1975

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY.

SUMMARY: VISIT OF SCRIPPS VESSEL TO SURABAYA WAS  
SUCCESSFUL, AND ENHANCED US IMAGE WITH KEY NAVAL AND  
CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES IN AREA. VESSEL'S COMPLEMENT WAS  
EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE, AND WE ARE GRATEFUL TO  
SCRIPPS, AND TO EMBASSY JAKARTA AND DEPARTMENT  
FOR FACILITATING VISIT. FOR AMEMBASSY MOSCOW:  
SEPTEL FOLLOWS ON ACTIVITIES OF SOVIET CONSUL GENERAL  
DURING VISIT. FOR CEBU: PLEASE SEE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF  
THIS MESSAGE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE VISIT OF THE R/V THOMAS WASHINGTON TO SURABAYA  
FEBRUARY 8-12 WENT SMOOTHLY, AND THE  
PURPOSES IN  
HIGHLIGHTING THE VISIT AS A SIGNIFICANT EVENT IN THE  
CONTEXT OF INDONESIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS SEEM TO  
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HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED. THESE PURPOSES WERE:

(A) TO DEFRAID ANY POTENTIAL LOCAL SUSPICION THAT THE VESSEL WAS COLLECTING INTELLIGENCE;

(B) TO DEMONSTRATE THE VALUE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL FORMS OF INDONESIAN-AMERICAN COOPERATION.

(C) TO PROMOTE TIES BETWEEN AMERICAN AND INDONESIAN EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS, SPECIFICALLY WITH DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY IN SEMARANG;

(D) TO DEMONSTRATE AMERICAN TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES IN OCEANOGRAPHY AND COMPUTER/SATELLITE NAVIGATION TO SENIOR INDONESIAN NAVAL PERSONNEL IN SURABAYA.

2. THE TURN-OUT FOR THE TOUR OF THE SHIP AND RECEPTION WAS REDUCED BECAUSE OF DAY-LONG HEAVY RAINS, BUT A NUMBER OF SENIOR OFFICIALS ATTENDED. THESE INCLUDED THE CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE FOURTH NAVAL REGION AND THE INDONESIAN ARMADA, THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF THE NAVAL ACADEMY, THE MAYOR OF SURABAYA, THE PRESIDENTS AND STAFF MEMBERS OF THE SURABAYA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, OF DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY IN SEMARANG, AND OF PETRA UNIVERSITY IN SURABAYA. SUNDAY WAS A BAD DAY TO HOLD THE EVENT, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THE SCIENTIFIC PARTY WAS LEAVING THE SHIP ON MONDAY SO THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE.

3. THE SHIP'S OFFICERS AND SCIENTIFIC PARTY WERE EXTREMELY FRIENDLY, COOPERATIVE AND INFORMATIVE TO ALL GUESTS, AND THE STARS OF THE TOUR WERE THE IBM 1800 COMPUTER AND THE RADIO SYSTEM WHICH CONTINUOUSLY PLOTS THE SHIP'S POSITION FROM DATA PROVIDED BY POLAR SATELLITES. SINCE INDONESIA WILL HAVE ITS OWN SATELLITE NEXT YEAR, THE NAVAL OFFICERS WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THESE DEVICES. THEY WERE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT THEY COULD ALSO TAP INTO ANY US SATELLITE FOR POSITION DATA THROUGH INSTALLATION OF RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE RADIO EQUIPMENT ABOARD INDONESIAN SHIPS.

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4. WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO SCRIPPS AND ITS PERSONNEL FOR COOPERATING IN THE VISIT. THE SCIENTIFIC PARTY, LED BY DR. JOSEPH CURRAY, AND CAPTAIN ARSENAULT AND HIS OFFICERS, MADE AN EXTREMELY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON THE INDONESIANS. THEY ALSO ESCORTED 35 CHILDREN FROM THE AMERICAN CONSULATE SCHOOL

THROUGH THE SHIP, AND COURTEOUSLY RECEIVED AND BRIEFED SEVERAL OTHER IMPROMPTU VISITORS. THE VISIT UNQUESTIONABLY ENHANCED THE US IMAGE IN SURABAYA, AND CREATED AN ATMOSPHERE OF OPENNESS. TRUST AND MUTUAL BENEFIT IN REGARD TO AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION THAT WILL EASE THE WAY FOR FUTURE OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH EFFORTS IN INDONESIAN WATERS - AT LEAST IN THE FOURTH NAVAL DISTRICT.

5. WE ALSO APPRECIATE AMEMBASSY JAKARTA'S TIMELY TRANSMISSION OF THE INDONESIAN DEFENSE DEPARTMENT (HANKAM) CLEARANCE DOCUMENTS TO US, AND THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTION TO OPEN RADIO COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE SHIP AND THE CONSULATE. INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES IN SURABAYA NEVER RECEIVED THE CLEARANCES THROUGH THEIR OWN CHANNELS, AND THE VESSEL WAS UNABLE TO CONTACT ITS AGENT DIRECTLY UNTIL IT REACHED THE PILOT STATION FEBRUARY 8. NEVERTHELESS, INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES IN SURABAYA WERE EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE, AND THE PRESENCE ABOARD OF THE TWO PERTAMINA SCIENTISTS AND INDONESIAN NAVAL OFFICER GREATLY FACILITATED THE VIP TOURS. A LAST MINUTE HANG-UP OVER FLAG DISPENSATION WAS RESOLVED BY A CABLE FROM HANKAM WAIVING THE REQUIREMENT, ARRANGED THROUGH PERTAMINA. SOME OF THE LESSONS WE LEARNED FROM THE VISIT WILL BE RELEVANT IN PREPARING FOR THE PORT CALL OF THE R/V ALPHA HELIX LATER THIS YEAR.

6. DR. CURRAY STORED 23 CARDBOARD BOXES OF SCIENTIFIC DATA FROM THE PHUKET ISLAND-SURABAYA LEG AT THE CONSULATE FOR TRANSMISSION TO SCRIPPS VIA EMBASSY FACILITIES. HOWEVER, NAVY FRANKS FOR MAILING THIS MATERIAL WERE MISSING FROM SHIP, AND WERE NOT PROVIDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO US. SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL ABOARD INDICATED FRANKS WOULD BE SENT TO CONSULATE EXPEDITIOUSLY, AND WE HOPE THIS WILL BE THE CASE. NO SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS WERE SHIPPED FROM SURABAYA.

7. THERE WERE NO SETTLEMENT DIFFICULTIES WITH AGENT, AND R/V THOMAS WASHINGTON DEPARTED SURABAYA AS SCHEDULED AT 1600 HOURS LOCAL TIME ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, BOUND FOR CEBU. WE WILL MAKE RADIO CONTACT WITH SHIP DAILY AT 1500 HOURS LOCAL UNTIL FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14. CLEARANCE FOR INDONESIAN WATERS EXPIRES FEBRUARY 15.

8. FOR AMCONSUL CEBU: R/V THOMAS WASHINGTON WILL ARRIVE IN CEBU ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 18 FOR THREE-DAY VISIT.

SHE WILL ENTER FILIPINO WATERS NEAR SULU ARCHIPELAGO.  
CAPTAIN ARSENAULT HAS NO OBJECTION TO VIP VISITS IF  
THEY CAN BE CONFINED TO ONE DAY. SHIP IS WORTH  
SEEING. AGENT FOR SHIP IS "TUCOR" COMPANY.  
HOWLAND

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO SCRIPPS INSTITUTION.

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## Message Attributes

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